

## NEW BOOKS

## Senshouse and Sanchoa's Story.

Marjorie Howells's story of "Senshouse and Sanchoa's Story" is a tale of the life of a young man who, after a long and eventful career, finds himself in a position of great responsibility. The story is told in a simple, direct manner, and is full of interest and excitement. It is a story of a man who has been through many hardships and who has learned many lessons from his experiences. It is a story of a man who has been through many hardships and who has learned many lessons from his experiences.

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of the Apennines or in the works of the noblest poets, a man of the sort whose society was desired by Matthew Arnold in the course of his reflections upon a nation of Philistines." He worked "for nine consecutive years without one holiday" to pay off the debts of his own very different father. Though he was a man by no means given to extravagance in providing his environment, he was able to have a luxurious home to which to return in the late afternoon for an evening of quiet pleasure. More particularly, "To this little paradise the wine merchant returned at half past four, and as soon as he returned he dined and subsequently partook of tea under the whiteheart cherry where his wife and son joined him. The whole evening when the weather was sufficiently warm was spent in the garden—a custom that ought to be followed as widely as possible, so that young John Ruskin saw a great deal more of the charms and the wonders of the sky, of birds and of flowers than most dwellers in the suburbs."

The first journey to Italy is noted, the journey performed in the "golden year of 1833," when Ruskin was 14, and the memories of the traveler are quoted where he records that at Strasburg he "was already wise enough to feel the cathedral stiff and ironwork." But Ruskin had prodigious joy in what he saw. He loved the continent of Europe. The book says: "All his life Ruskin continued to realize how great the other European nations really were. He did not attempt to patronize the countrymen of Goethe and Botticelli, because he himself belonged to a nation whose natives are highly fed and which is the mother of parliaments. He even imagined that to know what Botticelli meant, to be able to copy lovingly a single anemone from the meadow in his 'Spring' was better than to build the largest warships in the world." But Ruskin disclaimed to know what a Whistler "Nocturne" meant. The great critic's observation will be remembered: "I have seen and heard much of cockney impudence before now, but never expected to hear a cockney asking two hundred guineas for flinging a pot of paint in the public's face." The books call Whistler an Irish-Parisian.

As we were looking through this book we think that what we least expected to find was any mention of any Alderman of this city, but very curiously at page 134, in a passage describing Ruskin's ways of intellectual activity about the time of the war between France and Germany the asseveration faced us: "He often goes to the daily newspapers for inspiration; he reads the death of Col. James Fiske, the famous New York Alderman, and manages to spend a great deal of space and time in comparing him with Sir John Hawkwood, the Anglo-Italian adventurer." The commingling of the Fall River line of steamboats was intensely glamorous and modern, and the use that Ruskin made of him must have been to slay him again. We do not remember that his brother Aldermen took any notice of his demise.

The trouble was that there were too many of these objectionable things to slay. They were quite overpowering in their gross intrusions. Inasmuch as Ruskin preferred a ladder to a turbine steamer and a stagecoach to a limited vestibule train it will be understood how he could be sentimentally approved but could not be practically supported. Also how, while profoundly engaged in looking rapturously back, he was bound to be disastrously shocked by the assertive and inevitable matters into which he constantly butted.

## Foreign Lands.

The volume in the valuable "Highways and Byways" series which the Rev. Edward Conybeare has written on "Highways and Byways in Cambridge and Ely" (Macmillan) is of unusual interest, because it includes the university at Cambridge and the cathedral at Ely. A good part of the volume is taken up with the buildings in the town and the city, but the country villages in the district are also described adequately. The woodcuts of Frederick L. Griggs's drawings are very good and the maps are abundant and excellent. It is a delightful account of an extremely interesting corner of England.

By this time Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., surgeon to King Edward, has established his reputation as a globetrotter. Africa is the latest land that has been favored by his presence and in "Uganda for a Holiday" (E. P. Dutton and Company) he records his impressions. Following in the track of a more distinguished explorer his observations will not make a very strong impression; they will serve to demonstrate, however, that the lake region of Africa is now open to any traveler who will take the trouble to go there. He appends a few remarks on the sleeping sickness to mark that he is a doctor. He writes pleasantly and superficially about the things that a host of travelers have described before him.

Retaining his sensational title Mr. Douglas Sladen publishes a new and revised edition of "The Secrets of the Vatican" (J. B. Lippincott Company). This is an excellent guide book to the art treasures exhibited in the Vatican galleries and to the basilica of St. Peter's. To it is prefixed a useful summary of the Papal hierarchy and court, with accounts of interviews which the author had with the Pope and with Cardinal Merry del Val. Mr. Sladen has had experience in preparing guide books and this is one of the best he has put together. He might have revised his list of Cardinals for his new edition. The book is illustrated with many photographs.

In "The Mediterranean and Its Border Lands" (The John C. Winston Company) Mr. Joel Cook writes two volumes dealing with the Mediterranean and its border lands. The book is illustrated with many photographs.

"He approaches the subject from a scientific viewpoint, reverently, reasonably, and with a lucidity of expression that is distinctly helpful to the ordinary intelligent man."—*London Daily Graphic*.

EXTRACT FROM THE PREFACE: "Ever since the close of the nineteenth century a difficulty has been felt about the utilization of the Old Testament for teaching children. Nor has conviction of the truth of the central doctrines of the New Testament been quite unshaken. So much has had to be modified or discarded, in deference to scientific discoveries which are in process of popular assimilation, that a hesitating, cautious attitude is not only reasonable but meritorious."

In so far, however, as my own researches have led me to perceive a profound substratum of truth underlying ancient doctrines, and in so far as the purpose of them instead of underlying actually historical and allegorical use of them, I conceive it to be my duty as well as my privilege to contribute to the best of my ability how matters stand.

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scribing the sights that may be seen in the usual tour of the Mediterranean. He begins with the ocean islands where the steamers generally stop, the Azores, Madeira and the Canaries, and next tells of the lands they reach. His progress inland is measured by the time the steamers allow. Spain, Italy, southern France, the African coast are dealt with in the first volume. Greece, Constantinople, the Holy Land and Egypt in the second. The illustrations are extremely good photographs. The book will be a convenience to all travelers who intend to make a tour that has been made easy and conventional in late years.

## Irwin Major and Irwin Minor.

In "The Roadmaster" (R. W. Huebsch, New York) Mr. Will Irwin describes with much detail a character that interests him and dwells with pleasure on the San Francisco that is no more. His book bears the marks of great haste; it reads as though it had been dictated hurriedly to a stenographer, whose notes the author had not looked over. The hero is endowed with a fascinating smile, which offsets many deficiencies. The good and the bad in him are balanced pretty evenly at the beginning and end. Like Xenophon's Heracles in the "Memorabilia" he is set at the parting of the roads. His highway assurance hardly reconciles the reader to his other defects; he is a cad at the beginning and continues to be one to the end. Meanwhile he leads the reader and the other characters through that Bohemia of San Francisco of which native authors never tire, but of which outsiders are getting a surfeit. The young woman who secures him is needlessly offensive; the other young woman's infatuation is inexplicable. There is plenty of go in the story, but we imagine that it would have been much more forcible and certainly better written if Mr. Irwin had taken more pains with it.

For his epic "The Ledge" (R. W. Huebsch, New York) Mr. Wallace Irwin has selected an obvious hero. In the smallest of years he celebrates his political exploits as he is called from the African jungle. It is pretty phenomenal matter, the interest in which has expired with the eclipse of the hero against whom the satire was directed. There are bright lines here and there, but we are far removed from the Howells sort of things.

## A Fine Orchid Book.

As handsome an illustrated book as has appeared this season or for some years past is Mr. Charles H. Curtis's "Orchids for Everyone" (E. P. Dutton and Company). The book is a delightful variety in coloring and form of the flowers makes their reproduction in color extremely attractive. In this case the hundred full-page pictures, more than half of them colored, are taken from photographs, both the halftones and the reproductions of those taken directly in color by Mr. T. Ernest Waltham and are a delight to the eye whether the reader is interested in orchids or not.

The text and the arrangement of the contents are intended to be of practical use to those who wish to grow orchids in their greenhouses. Mr. Curtis was formerly keeper of the collections in the

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In so far, however, as my own researches have led me to perceive a profound substratum of truth underlying ancient doctrines, and in so far as the purpose of them instead of underlying actually historical and allegorical use of them, I conceive it to be my duty as well as my privilege to contribute to the best of my ability how matters stand.

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royal gardens at Kew. After a few clear directions regarding the culture of orchids, and a brief summary of the history of the introduction of the flower into Great Britain and of experiments there in hybridization, with many practical hints for the grower, he describes the various kinds in detail. He divides orchids into two broad classes, the useful, by which he means those that amateur growers can raise most easily, and those of lower value, which include those that present difficulties in culture or are too rare and expensive to be within the reach of most people. Under each head the plants are arranged alphabetically. At the end he supplies a horticultural calendar and a very full index. It is a useful, instructive and very attractive volume, showing the Dent typography at its best.

## Picturesque New York.

That the camera, when skilfully handled at the right moment, can obtain artistic results as can the individual artist with his talent and imagination is amply demonstrated by Mr. Alvin Langdon Coburn in the twenty beautiful plates of his "New York" (Duckworth and Company, Boston). His artistic sense will be more appreciated from this poetic handling of scenes familiar to all than from his equally beautiful photographs of less well known London. Some of the views are improved by extraneous accessories, effects of atmosphere, fog, light, the groups of human figures, admirably posed, may have a general rather than a local application, some plates seem to have been touched up, but most of the pictures owe their attraction to the real beauty of the buildings, to which most people are blind because they see them every day, or to their being presented from a favorable point of view. Every foreigner will for a

Continued on Eighth Page

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**Dixie Hart**

By Will N. Harben

"Equal to the very best of his work," says one critic of this newest Harben novel—and it should be remembered that over 250,000 copies of his books have been disposed of. "A sweeter girl than Dixie Hart never walked the pages of a book," writes another. "It is a story that does one good to read," is a Western verdict, and this from Georgia speaks for itself: "So true to life that all Southerners will enjoy 'Dixie Hart.'" A Boston critic finds the novel "a pure and sweet love story."

**The Heritage Of the Desert**

By Zane Grey

"An appealing love story, pure as the far water brooks," says one reviewer of this new novel, "in which the curtain is raised on a scene hitherto unexplored in American fiction." The New York World adds this comment: "It is a strong story, rich with life and mixed with color. No man in the tale wears a collar, and the women are the genuine daughters of the desert and the mountains, fit mates of their men. We are glad to recommend this fine new novel, 'The Heritage of the Desert.'"

**Mary Cary**

By Kate Langley Boshier

There is now ready, in full green leather binding, a new holiday edition of this little book of the heart, about which one critic said: "Let's be glad for books like 'Mary Cary.'" Another writer said: "Worthy of being received into all the households of America, a story that will be as much of a favorite as 'Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.'"

**Opal**

By Bessie R. Hoover

A love story of real life as true and appealing as Miss Wilkins's early stories of New England. A picture of everyday human nature without pretense, varied by the incidents and suspended interest of a diversified romance, and pervaded with humor. It is the kind of story to bring laughter and tears—the tale of humble folk as they actually live, their joys and sorrows frankly expressed without the disguise of conventionality. This novel is mostly about Opal, although the other delightful Flickingers share in the fun.

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